

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
GREENVILLE DIVISION**

VANTREETA LOCKHART

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:23-cv-163-JMV

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY

DEFENDANT

ORDER ON PETITION FOR ATTORNEY FEES

Before the Court are Plaintiff's motion [22] for attorney fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and Defendant's response [23]. For the reasons that follow, the motion is granted.

In these proceedings Plaintiff sought judicial review of the Social Security Commissioner's final decision denying a claim for benefits. This Court's Order [20] reversed the Commissioner's decision and remanded to the Social Security Administration on April 17, 2024, for further proceedings. A party who obtains a remand in a social security appeal pursuant to the fourth sentence of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) qualifies as a prevailing party for purposes of fees under the EAJA. *Breaux v. U.S.D.H.H.S*, 20 F.3d 1324, 1324 (5th Cir. 1994) (per curiam).

Plaintiff, through her motion, seeks attorney fees in the amount of \$8,040.70. In support of the motion, Plaintiff's counsel submitted a statement regarding the time expended litigating this action. According to the motion, Plaintiff's attorney spent a total of 33.2 hours on this case at a rate of \$242.19 per hour.

The Court, having thoroughly considered the motion, noting that the defendant does not oppose the motion, and the applicable law, finds the requested award is reasonable; and no special circumstance would make the award unjust.

Therefore, it is ordered that the Commissioner shall promptly pay Plaintiff \$8,040.70 in attorney fees for the benefit of her counsel. As a matter of practice, an EAJA fee made payable to Plaintiff may properly be mailed to Plaintiff's attorney.

SO ORDERED, this the 20th day of June, 2024.

/s/ Jane M. Virden
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE